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"I implore your Royal Highness to resist the advice of those, who would fain make you believe, that we ought to insist upon these impressments. I implore your Royal Highness to reflect on the manifold miseries that may arise from this cause; and to be pleased to bear in mind, that, to yield *hereafter*, to yield upon force or menace, will be *disgrace*; whereas, to yield *now*, would indicate a sentiment of *justice*."—POL. REGISTER, 20th June, 1812. Vol. XXI. p. 789.

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TO THE PRINCE REGENT,

ON THE DISPUTE WITH AMERICA.

Letter IX.

Sir,
When I closed the eighth Letter to your Royal Highness upon this subject, it was my intention to forbear any further remonstrance with you thereon, and to leave *time* to be the teacher. But, the intelligence, arrived from America since the date of that Letter, has made me depart from that intention, and has induced me to make one more effort to convince you, that, without further measures in the way of conciliation, peace with America is not likely to be restored.

The very day on which my last Letter was printing (Friday last), was marked by the promulgation of tidings from America, that the Congress had *revoked the declaration of war*, and that the American General in Canada had *entered into an Armistice* for 30 days; and that both these had taken place in consequence of the revocation of our Orders in Council. A few hours were sufficient to dissipate these falsehoods, fabricated, no doubt, for the purpose of deceiving the people of this "most thinking" country. The deception would last, in all human probability, for only a few days; but, at the end of those days, a new falsehood would be invented, and the old one lost in that. This falsehood, however, does not appear to have lived even 48 hours; for, the very next day after its promulgation brought forth the contradiction; brought forth the complete proof of a fabrication. Surely, Sir, the people of America must despise us! They must despise, or, at least, pity, a nation who are made the sport of such vile literary impostors; base hirelings, who prostitute the press to all the purposes hostile to truth and freedom.

The authentic intelligence received from

America appears to be, in substance, this: that the American Government has received intelligence of the repeal of our Orders in Council, but, that it is by no means satisfied therewith, and means to demand a redress of all its alleged grievances, before it lays down its arms. In confirmation of this, the following paragraph has been quoted from a paper deemed the demi-official paper of the American Government:

—"The Orders in Council of the British Government are *now no longer a question* with the United States. The question of peace now requires only a proper and a vigorous use of the ample means which the Government is possessed of, to render it speedy, decisive, and glorious. Peace, when it comes, must bring with it *more than the confession* of British outrage by the retraction of its avowed tyranny. It is not a mere cessation to do wrong that can now produce a peace; wrongs done must be redressed; and a guarantee must be given in the face of the world, for the restoration of our enslaved citizens, and the respect due to our flag, which, like the soil we inherit, must in future secure all that sails under it. The rights of neutrals must be recognized; and the British, like the first tyrants of the Swiss, must no longer expect a free people to bow down, and worship the symbols of British usurpation."

Did I not tell you so, Sir, in my very last Letter? Did I not say, that America would now demand "*indemnity for the past and security for the future*?" I wished to guard your Royal Highness against deception, and I, for that purpose, entered into an argument to show, that we ought not to expect America to make peace with us upon our having barely *ceased to commit* what she asserted to be a violation of her rights. I told your Royal Highness, that she, for more than one reason, must demand something more than a mere *cessation* to do what she declared to be a wrong.

In short, if I had been informed, when I wrote my last Letter, of what I now *know*, I could not have written otherwise than I then did.

I, therefore, have, I think, some claim to attention from your Royal Highness, especially as I have all along told you, that the repeal of our Orders would not, *alone*, be sufficient. When the repeal took place, upon the death of Perceval, and when Mr. Ponsonby and Mr. Brougham were reported to be making pledges to support a war against America, if that repeal did not satisfy her; at *that time*; at that important moment, when conciliation might have been rendered complete; even then, without a moment's delay, I told your Royal Highness, that the repeal of the Orders would not, of itself, be enough, and, as will be seen by the passage taken for my Motto, I most earnestly besought you to put a stop, of your own accord, to the impressment of persons on board of American ships. If *this* had been done, Sir; if this measure, so strongly recommended by me, had been adopted *then*, we should now have seen our ports crowded with American ships to take away our manufactures, instead of hearing of hundreds of American privateers cruising against our commerce.

The COURIER and TIMES news-papers, two of the most corrupt in England, make certain remarks upon the paragraph which I have quoted from the American demi-official print; and, as these remarks embrace assertions and notions that are false, it is necessary, or, at least, it may be useful, to put the matters of which they treat in a fair light.

The COURIER has this paragraph:—

“Here, then, is an open avowal, that nothing will satisfy the American Government but the *abandonment of the right of search*, and the acknowledgment of the principle, that free ships make free goods. *Perish the idea of peace, if it is only to be made on such terms.* Yet this the American Government calls “an anxious desire to accommodate all differences upon the most reasonable conditions!!!”

The TIMES says:—“In this philippic, *redress* is not only claimed for the supposed wrongs inflicted by this country, but it is declared, that the “American flag must in future secure all that sails under it.” This is adopting, in its fullest extent, the language of Buonaparte, that “free ships make free goods.” If that principle be maintained by the Ame-

“rican Government, and supported by the “American Legislature, we see not the “slightest prospect of a speedy termination “of hostilities.”

Thus, then, these good hirelings are for war, rather than give up what they call the “*right of search*.” They are hardly so stupid as not to know, that the Americans do not contend for our abandonment of the *right of search*, in the usual sense of those words; they must know, that, as far as to search ships at sea (or rather to *visit* them) has been sanctioned by the usage of nations, the Americans are ready to submit to it; but, Sir, this right of search is very different indeed from that of which these good hired writers are speaking.

There is a right of search, or of visit, acknowledged by all the nations of Europe. When a nation is at war, she claims the right of visiting all neutral merchant ships at sea, in order to see that they do not assist her enemy by carrying warlike stores or troops for him; and, if she find them thus taking part with her enemy; if she find them thus transgressing the general usage of nations, she seizes them, as, indeed, she has just cause for doing, seeing that they are, in fact, engaged in the war against her. And, the right of visiting them, to see whether they be thus transgressing, has been, by us, called *the right of search*. We have contended for, and have, for some time past, been able to maintain, an extension of this right to the *goods of an enemy* found in a neutral ship; though it is to be observed, that our ally, Russia, and our ally, Sweden, as well as Denmark, and Holland, in all times, have contended against this right. But, what have these to do with the searching of which the Americans complain? They complain, not that we seize contraband of war on board their vessels; not that we confiscate ships or cargoes where there are enemy's troops or enemy's goods; but, that we stop their vessels upon the high seas, and that there we TAKE OUT OF THEM WHATEVER PERSONS WE PLEASE. This is what they complain of; and, the fact is perfectly notorious, that we have, in this way, taken many thousands of persons out of American ships, carrying on their trade quietly from one part of the world to another. It is notorious, that many of the persons thus seized were citizens and natives of America; that they have been taken on board of our ships of war; that they have been kept there for years; that they have been taken to all parts of the

world; that many of them have been wounded, many have lost their limbs, and many killed, in a service which they abhorred, being compelled to fight against those with whom they had no quarrel.

There is no man of any consideration, who will attempt to say, that this is right. It must of necessity have created deep-rooted ill-will against us in America, where the sea-faring people are not a class of individuals who have neither house nor home, and whose state is desperate. A vessel, in America, is often manned by people all living in the same village; and, the impressment, the banishment, the destruction of one, must be felt by the whole, and by the whole of the neighbourhood also. Hence the heart-burnings in America against England. The confiscation of ships and cargoes, under the Orders in Council, together with the dreadful distress to the Captains and crews, produced great effect against us; but, great as it was, it fell short of the effect produced by the impressment of American seamen.

It has been said, that, if we give up the exercise of this power of impressment, our sailors will desert to the American ships. But, suppose the fact be so: What is that to America? It is not her fault. She does not force them out of our service. She does not compel them to desert. If they really do like her service better than ours, she cannot help that. We may as well complain of her for having such a country as our artisans and manufacturers prefer to their own, and, upon that ground, go and search her country for our deserted artisans and manufacturers, who emigrate to her shores in defiance of our laws. Really, Sir, I can see no just cause of complaint against her because our men desert to her ships. It is for us to keep our men, if we wish them not to go into her service; and not to complain of her for receiving them.

It is a practice wholly unknown in the world before. We have never, that I have heard of, attempted to exercise such a power against any nation but America. It is true, that all our officers who may visit her ships may not conduct themselves in a manner such as she has complained of; but, it is not less true, that they are *left entirely to their own discretion*. They are, it is true, not authorized to take *Americans* out of American ships; but, then, it is left to them, and must be left wholly to them, to decide *who are, and who are not, Americans*. This being the case, it is clear that

every American ship's crew who meet an English ship of war at sea are *at the mercy* of the commander of that ship of war! No more need be said; for no man likes to be at the mercy of another. The English Captain has, in this case, the power of seizure, of imprisonment, of banishment, and, indeed, what power has he not over the American crew? They may produce proof of being natives of America, and then he is not authorized to seize them. Aye! but he, alas! is the sole and absolute *judge of that proof*, which he may think *bad*, and then it may as well not be produced.

This is the view to take of the matter, Sir. The corrupt press of London may, and will, bewilder the minds of the people by talking about our right of search, and the like; but, the plain fact is this; that, in consequence of this authority given to our ships of war to take persons out of American ships at sea, the crew of every American merchant ship that went to sea, or even from one port to another in America, were at the absolute mercy of the commander of the first English ship of war that happened to meet them. Suppose the case, Sir, of an American captain sailing out of the Delaware for the East Indies with his complement of men, being twenty, all his neighbours, met by an English sloop of war; suppose him to have six of his men taken out in spite of all his assurances of their being native Americans; suppose him left to pursue his voyage with only 14 hands; suppose the six seized men to be taken off to the West Indies; suppose two or three to die of the yellow fever; another to be killed; another lose an arm; and the sixth released by the intervention of the American Consul in London. Suppose this case, Sir, and you will suppose *what may have happened*. It was *possible* for such cases to happen, and that was enough; but, it was a thing which admitted of being rendered impossible. It is sufficient to say, that, in consequence of the exercise of this power, no American could, in a merchant ship, sail the sea in safety. He never was, for one single hour, secure against captivity and banishment. To a people so situated war must be a *relief*. The American seaman will prefer war, because if captured in war, the laws of war protect him and feed him as a *prisoner*; whereas he was before liable, not only to be seized and carried from his calling and country, but, at the same time, compelled to act as a seaman on board of our ships;

compelled to labour and to risk his life in our service, where it might be his lot to assist in serving others of his own countrymen as he himself had been served.

Sir, when you take a dispassionate view of this matter, I am quite sure, that the justice of your mind will decide you in favour of an abandonment, a frank abandonment, of the exercise of this power, which is, I am satisfied, without a precedent in the usage of nations, and which, under the present circumstances, can do nothing towards the safety of the country.

If this point were once settled, it appears to me, that much difficulty would not remain. But, as I had before the honour to state to your Royal Highness, it is not to be supposed, that war is to *cease* the moment we *cease to do wrong* to America. I have not taken upon me to say, whether our Orders in Council were a wrong, or not; but, by the repeal, we seem to have acknowledged that they were. If, then, they were a wrong, the cessation of them cannot be considered as sufficient to induce America to put up the sword at once, and without any further ceremony. When I published what was called a Libel, in the year 1809, that is to say, when I published an expression of my feelings at what had then been described as having taken place, at the town of Ely (where the Bank has since broken), with respect to the Local Militia and the German Legion; when I had made that publication I *ceased*; I made only one of that sort; yet, Sir, was I, at the distance of a year after the publication, sentenced to be imprisoned for two years, and to pay a thousand pounds fine to your royal Sire, and which thousand pounds I have paid to you, in his behalf. So you see, Sir, that, after one has done a thing, or has been doing a thing, it is not always sufficient *to cease* to do it; the ceasing to do that which is deemed wrong, is not always regarded as sufficient to appease, or disarm, the offended party. The last part of my punishment, the payment of the fine to you, in behalf of your royal Sire, was inflicted at more than three years' distance from the time of my writing about the Local Militia and the German Legion. There may, perhaps, in the law of nations, be an exception from the general principles in cases where a kingly government commits an offence, or alleged offence, against a republic; but, in my small reading, I have, I must confess, never met with any such exception.

Therefore, I, for my part, was not at

all surprized to see the American demi-official print announce, that *compensation for the past and security for the future* would be required. "It is not," says the writer, "a mere *cessation to do wrong* that can now produce a peace: wrong done must be *redressed*, and a *guarantee* must be given in the face of the world." Yes, Sir, just as in my case, who, after imprisonment and fine was compelled, before I was released, *to enter into bonds*, to give a *guarantee*, as the republican writer calls it. Indeed, Sir, the history of the world is full of cases in support of this doctrine of the Americans. When your Royal Brother invaded Holland, it was not sufficient that he *ceased* to penetrate into the country; for, when he got back to the *Helder*, though he had then entirely *ceased* to be an invader, and appears to have very properly confined his wishes to the safe bringing-off of his army, the Republican generals, *Brune* (the "Printer's boy of Limosin") and *Daendels*, insisted upon his stipulating for the surrender to France and Holland of *eight thousand* of their seamen, who were then prisoners of war in England; this they insisted upon, "as the price of permission to the British troops, with whom the Duke of York had invaded Holland, to re-embark on board their transports *without molestation*."

This was a compensation for injury, not done, but attempted. If the Royal commander had said, "I have *stopped*; I have *ceased*; I am going away; *what more do you want?*" If he had thus addressed the republican generals, they would have thought him cracked in the brain. His Royal Highness knew a great deal better. He took the effectual way of giving his opponents satisfaction, and thus he was enabled to bring off his army without molestation.

Here, then, Sir, are two instances of the soundness of the American doctrine; that a mere cessation of an offensive act is not, as a matter of course, deemed a satisfaction to the party offended. Nay, in my case, that was single; it was committed in a moment; it at once ceased; there was no remonstrance; no expostulation; the single act was seized hold of, and my printer and publisher and one of the newsmen, though they did not attempt to defend *their* conduct, but confessed their crime, declared on oath that they were wholly unconscious that they were publishing a libel and humbly sued for mercy;

though they did all this, yet they were all imprisoned.

Upon what principle, then, I ask, can these corrupt writers imagine, that America is to be satisfied with the mere repeal of our Orders in Council; that is to say, with a mere cessation of the acts offensive to her? Upon what ground is it that the country, in which the proceedings against me took place, can expect this at her hands? I do not say, that we were doing her wrong; I do not take upon me to decide that question. If we were not doing her wrong, however, why did we repeal? If we were not doing her wrong, why did we yield at her menaces? If we were not doing her wrong, we should not have given way; and, if we were doing her wrong, we should have gone further; for, upon the principles on which I was punished, and on which the sans-culotte generals insisted upon your Royal Brother's giving up of 8,000 prisoners of war then in England; upon those principles a mere cessation to do what gives offence is not considered as a sufficient atonement to the offended party.

The President of the United States has seen himself ridiculed and most grossly abused in our venal news-papers, who, amongst other qualities not more to be admired, have ascribed to him that of *cowardice*. Such language does not tend to harmony; and, though (thank God!) Mr. Madison cannot, by his obstinacy, or to indulge any old grudge, plunge his country into a war; yet, he certainly has the power to render the way to peace more difficult. I must, however, do him the justice to say, that I do not believe him capable of imitating, for one single moment, those detestable miscreants, whom history has but too frequently exhibited in the act of rendering millions miserable for the purpose of gratifying some stupid, some idiot-like, some hog-like, passion. But, without being under any such influence, and without supposing any very strong prejudice against England in the minds of the people of America, there are, I fear, reasons enough to induce Mr. Madison to be in no haste to listen to terms of peace.

America has long felt the power of England; she has long been compelled to endure that which she detested; she is covered with scars of our inflicting; and she will not forget all this now that she has arms in her hands. I have before pointed to your Royal Highness of what importance it is to her that we should have nothing to do in the affairs of Spain. The war in

Spain is, in fact, most fearful to America when it is most promising in appearances to us. She will never rest contented while there is a chance of our having any influence in Spanish South America. Of Napoleon she is not afraid in that quarter. He has no fleet to endanger her commerce; and, besides, her present exertions against us may, perhaps, secure her his assent to her wishes on that flank of her territories.

As to our internal situation she is well aware of it. The army in Canada is not better known to her than the army in the "*disturbed counties*." Mr. Madison is very well acquainted with the causes of our disturbances; he has read before now all the evidence taken at the bar of parliament; he has seen it *proved* that the people of England are suffering greatly from the non-importation of their goods into America; he is well aware of the wants of our army in Spain, Portugal, and the Mediterranean; and he knows that a war with his country must soon plunge us into the greatest distress.

It is with a knowledge of all these that Mr. Madison enters on the war; and, under such circumstances, it appears to me impossible that he should listen to any terms of peace not including ample indemnity for the past. The American prints seem to insist upon a guarantee for the release of the American Seamen whom we have impressed. This, I should hope, there would be no objection to; and, indeed, I hope, that your Royal Highness's ministers will *now*, at the eleventh hour, do every thing in their power to procure us the restoration of *honourable* peace; I hope that England is not doomed to wage war against every man in the world who is in the enjoyment of real liberty. I know, Sir, that there are, in England, men who abhor the American government and people, and who would, if they had the power, exterminate them both, merely because the one guarantees and the other enjoys freedom. Such men will never be happy while they see a free man in the world; but, their malice will not be gratified; they will, though it blast their eye-sight, still see the Americans free. Such men always speak of America with disdain; they affect to consider her as nothing; they seem to think that no ceremony is necessary with her; that even when she has declared war, and has actually begun war, she is bound to leave off merely upon our ceasing to do her wrong, if wrong it be. Such men would, of course, think it

a great mortification to send over to her *pacific overtures*, which one of them already calls *suing for peace*. Far from your Royal Highness be counsels like these! How much blood might they cause to flow! This was the language with regard to the republicans of France; but, the haughty Pitt was glad, at last, to be permitted to send overtures of peace to those republicans. I hope, therefore, that we shall, in this case, be wise in the out-set, which is far better than *wisdom at the close*.

The whole case is now before you, Sir; war or peace is in your power. That you may choose the latter is the earnest wish of your Royal Highness's faithful servant,

WM. COBBETT.

Botley, 23d September, 1812.

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

NORTHERN WAR.—Napoleon approaches MOSCOW. Perhaps he is now there; and yet we are told of the *bravery* and the *patriotism* of the Russians.—Well, then, if they be both *brave* and *patriotic* what is the inference? why, that *patriotism* dictates to them to let the French come and take possession of their country.—I have hitherto given, as fully as I have been able, the Bulletins of the French army, and I shall continue to do so; for, I am convinced that they will contain the true history of this most important war, a war which is to decide the fate of the last of the old powers in Europe, except England.—If it be possible for any thing to add to the barefaced, the unblushing infamy, of our corrupt press, it would be the praises it is now bestowing upon the character and conduct of BERNADOTTE, the Crown Prince of Sweden. Long after I was in Newgate, they abused him like a *common thief*. I endeavoured to assuage their wrath; but, no: it would not be: they would insist, that he was all that was abominable. Now, behold, he is the only man to save the cause; he is to be the great deliverer of Europe; he has had a meeting with our august ally, the Czar, who has lately received a *consecrated* image of the *Patron Saint* of Russia from the Bishop of Moscow!—The idea is, that Bernadotte, assisted by us, is to take over an army and fall upon the rear of Napoleon. To *stab him in the back* as it were. Never! He'll never attack Napoleon. There have been many men great while

under him; but, they have all become dust when *opposed* to him.—He is now within a short distance, comparatively speaking, of Moscow! That one fact ought to make his enemies look grave. The greatest of conquerors, of whom history speaks, have not, in their whole lives, performed half what he has performed since he quitted Paris the last time, and that was, I believe, about the time that I quitted Newgate. In two months he has done more, has gone farther with an army, than ever commander did before in two years.—“Fall upon his rear!” The sots! who told them that it was possible to fall upon his rear? His rear, indeed! His rear is covered by the people whom he has emancipated. His rear is covered by the Poles and the Lithuanians. Millions are at his back.—And, then, as to the French. See! he dares leave France and go to the north pole, if the climate would let him. After this can we be cheated into the belief, that he and his government are *hated in France*? Can any man of common sense be made to believe, that there is any chance of “*delivering*” the French nation? There is not, in my opinion, the smallest chance of any thing being done to obstruct him in the North. He will, in all probability, make a peace with the Emperor of Russia, and will obtain the power of enforcing completely the continental system. Having done that he will, in all likelihood, proceed to finish his work in the Southern Peninsula. I would, therefore, have *offered him terms of peace now*, before he had completed his work in the North; and, of course, before he was sure of success.—I have always been full of apprehensions for the result of this war; because, if there be no power left upon the continent, able to make head against Napoleon, the whole of his force may, at last, be directed against us.—I, for my part, can see no one reason *against treating for peace*, while I can see many reasons for it.

PAPER AGAINST GOLD.—The gold is now sold at £5. 11s. an ounce. I merely note this, in order to let my readers see how the work of depreciation goes on. The price of bullion *fluctuates* a little; but, generally, it is a fair standard of the value of the paper.

WM. COBBETT.

Botley, 24th September, 1812.



OFFICIAL PAPERS.

NORTHERN WAR.—*Twelfth Bulletin of the Grand French Army.—Witepsk, Aug. 7.*

At the battle of the Drissa, the Russian General Koulmien, a distinguished officer of the light troops, was killed; ten other Generals were wounded; four Colonels were killed.—General Ricard, with his brigade, entered Dunaberg the 1st August. He found eight pieces of cannon; all the remainder had been taken away. The Duke of Tarentum also arrived there on the 2d. Thus, Dunaberg, that the enemy has been fortifying for five years, where he has expended several millions, which cost him more than 20,000 men during the labour, has been abandoned without firing a musket, and is in our power, like the other works of the enemy, and like the intrenched camp which he had on the Drissa.—In consequence of the taking of Dunaberg, his Majesty has ordered that a park of 100 pieces of artillery, which he had formed at Magdeburg, and which he had advanced upon the Niemen, should retrograde to Dantzic, and be put in depot in that place.—At the commencement of the campaign, two besieging parks of artillery had been prepared; one against Dunaberg, the other against Riga.—The magazines of Witepsk are provisioned; the hospitals organized. These ten days of repose are extremely useful to the army. The heat is, besides, excessive. We have it warmer here than in Italy. The harvests are superb; it appears that this extends to all Russia. Last year it was bad every where. The crops will not begin to be cut before eight or ten days.—His Majesty has made a large square (place) before the palace which he occupies at Witepsk. This palace is situate upon the banks of the left of the river Dwina. Every morning, at six, there is a grand parade, at which all the officers of the Guard appear. One of the brigade of Guards, in fine condition, alternately defiles.

Report of the Prince Viceroy of the Battles of the 25th, 26th, and 27th July.

Sire,—I have the honour to address to your Majesty the reports of the battles which took place on the 25th, 26th, and 27th July, and in which the Fourth Corps that I command took part.—Your Majesty ordered the King of Naples, Commandant of the Cavalry of the Army, to set out from Beehen Kovisch, and take the direction of Witepsk. I received orders to place at his disposition the 8th light infan-

try.—The King of Naples met the enemy in advance of Ostrovno, and engaged in different charges of cavalry, which obtained two grand results. About 600 prisoners and eight pieces of cannon were the trophies of this day. The General of Division Delzons informs me, that the 8th had several engagements, which it supported with valour.—On the 26th, the King of Naples received orders to continue his march upon Witepsk, and me to move with a division to support the movement of the cavalry. I went before day to the King of Naples, and we together agreed upon the hour at which the movement should commence.—I ordered the 13th division to follow the cavalry, and the 14th, and guard, to follow the 13th, but *en echelon*, and at an hour's distance.—The route ran through a wood, and the 8th was quickly engaged to open the road, which the enemy disputed with infantry.—About ten in the morning, the 8th, after having drawn from the wood all the enemy's tirailleurs, met them formed, and holding an advantageous position upon a piece of ground, of considerable elevation, protected by a numerous artillery, having before them a deep ravine, and their left supported by a forest, so thick, that it was impossible for masses to penetrate it, without breaking. It was General Ostermann's corps, consisting of two divisions of infantry, which occupied this position. I then ordered General Delzons, commandant of the 13th division, to form for the attack the Croat regiment and 84th, upon the left of the road, the first deployed, the second in column by divisions. A battalion of voltigeurs, and the 93d regiment were placed upon the right, *en echelon*, by battalion. The attack commenced; it was brisk, and the enemy were charged with intrepidity. The Croats and 84th obliged the battalions offered to them to give way. General Huard, who commanded this attack, displayed equal valour and capacity. Upon the right, the voltigeurs and 92d experienced a greater resistance; they had to penetrate through the forest, *debouch*, and form under the enemy's fire, who placed on their left their principal force. It was not without multiplied efforts, that General Roussel succeeded in taking a position upon *debouching* from the wood, and driving away the enemy; all the valour of the troops and the obstinacy of the General were required to succeed in this so difficult attack.—Nevertheless, the centre and the left, which could not see the slow progress of the right, contended

in the forest, pursuing their success. The enemy, who saw their left supported itself, marched the reserve upon the right, which was more closely pushed. The Croats and 84th were in their turn assailed.—The King of Naples, with his brilliant valour and the promptitude of lightning, determined upon a vigorous charge of cavalry, which arrested the enemy. The Chief of Battalion, Ricard, with a company of carabineers of the 8th, threw himself before the mouths of the cannon. The Chief of Battalion, Dumay, and Captain Bonardale, with an uncommon bravery, maintained the greatest order in the column of artillery. During this time General Roussel *debouched* from the forest, charged the enemy with the 92d in column, and rendered himself master of the position. The Croats and 84th, supported by two battalions of the 106th regiment, kept in reserve to this moment, regained their first advantages. It was then that every thing was re-established, and we remained masters of the ground which the enemy had so hardly contested.—After some moments of repose to rally the troops and reform the columns, the enemy were again pursued, and promptly driven from all the positions which they still attempted to defend. They were thus brought back till within two leagues from Witepsk, in which the 13th division took a position about nine in the evening. The 14th was placed upon the road, in a second line, with orders to clear the banks of the Dwina. The guard was also placed in the rear, to the right of the 13th division.—On the 27th, your Majesty ordered the cavalry and 4th corps to continue the movement upon Witepsk. On this day the 14th division took the lead; the General of Brigade, Bertrand de Sivray, was detached with the 18th regiment of light infantry, and three companies of voltigeurs; he seized upon a village occupied by the enemy on the right, and followed the crest of the heights, of which he rendered himself master; the remainder of the division advanced and formed upon the left of the road, in presence of the enemy, established its artillery, silenced that opposed to it, and forced the Russians to withdraw their line from the banks of the ravine they occupied behind a burnt bridge.—General Broussur took advantage of this retrograde movement of the enemy, passed the river with his division, formed his regiments by *echellons*, in a double square, under a very brisk fire of his artillery. The square of the 53d was nearest.

The enemy's cavalry several times endeavoured to charge the squares, but the fire and countenance of this regiment always checked them.—The two first companies of the 9th line, voltigeurs, which had passed the bridge, under the enemy's fire, were skilfully and bravely directed by Captains Guyard and Savory, upon the enemy's flank, and carried them, with great loss.—[The remainder of this report consists of praises bestowed upon different Officers, who distinguished themselves.]—I am, with the most profound respect, Sire, &c. &c.

EUGENE NAPOLEON.

First Report from the King of Naples to the Emperor.—Mattuzero, Aug. 1.

Sire,—I arrived from Polotsk at Beehen Kovisch, in the evening of the 24th, and agreeably to the instructions which were sent me, to rejoin the 1st corps of cavalry, and with it bear upon Witepsk, the Viceroy was to support me. General Nansouty left his head-quarters at Bandebova, and I rejoined him when he was engaged with the enemy upon the height of Ostrovno, and master of the first position of eight pieces of cannon, which the advanced guard of Bruyen's division had taken.—This success was the result of a brilliant charge of cavalry, executed by General Pere, with equal bravery and skill, notwithstanding General Ostermann, who had on that morning, with all his corps, taken a position some hundred toises in the rear, opposed it with infantry. I made St. German's division rapidly advance, and form his lines by brigades, and all his artillery was properly placed. I then saw at about fifty toises distance a Russian regiment of dragoons *debouch* from a wood, which began to form upon the left flank of the foreign brigade with which I then was. To change from front upon the right, charge, overthrow, and almost instantly destroy it, was but the affair of an instant. A second charge of Pere's brigade, having at its head General Count Ornano, took place upon the causeway; it was assisted by the infantry's fire.—Informed by the prisoners that I had to contend with the whole of Ostermann's corps, I ordered Delzon's and Broussur's divisions to march upon the line; I advanced two battalions of the 8th light infantry, which your Majesty had in the morning placed at my disposal, and placed them along a small wood, which was upon my left, to support my first brigade of cavalry, which the fire of the in-

fantry would necessarily force to retire. Upon seeing this movement, about three battalions marched from their left to the front of my cavalry, to meet these two battalions. I ordered them to be charged; they were obliged to retire with considerable loss. I wished to maintain this position till the arrival of Delzon's division; but the enemy marched by favour of a wood which was upon my right, ten or twelve battalions, and shewed a disposition to attack my right—a movement which would necessarily have compelled me to abandon my positions.—Two of these battalions had already debouched, and forced the brigade on the right to give way. Two other battalions debouched on my left upon a regiment of cuirassiers and the 9th lancers. Almost at the same time these four battalions were charged and destroyed, those on my left by the 9th lancers, and those on my right by the foreign brigade. I have seldom seen cavalry charge infantry with such courage and success.—Delzon's division now being arrived, I ordered it to march along the Dwina, and take a position that would threaten the rear of the Russians. This movement alone stopped the enemy on my right, who were eager to recal their battalions to the centre to cover their retreat, which they effected the same instant.—The two battalions of the eighth regiment of light infantry repulsed two or three charges of the enemy's infantry, and constantly covered the front of my line. The artillery did the greatest injury to the enemy; it fired 1,500 discharges at half shot distance.—Such, Sire, is the exact account of the battle of Ostrovno, of which the results have been the taking of eight pieces of cannon, 7 or 800 prisoners, and at least 5 or 6,000 Russians killed and wounded. Your Majesty may judge of the enemy by passing over the field of battle.—I acquainted your Majesty by my letter, written on the very ground, with the brilliant conduct of the Generals who directed these different charges. Your Majesty will find more in detail, in the annexed Reports, the names of the brave men who most particularly distinguished themselves: your Majesty will permit me to solicit for them the justly merited rewards. I owe particular eulogium to General Count Belliard, who was in all the charges, and was of the greatest use to me in executing the different movements which I found it necessary to order. I must likewise name to your Majesty all the individuals of my House, and request your goodness in their

favour. I have the honour to request of your Majesty a Lieutenancy for M. Berthier, Sub-Lieutenant of the 16th horse chasseurs, who was in the charge made by General Ornand, and was one of the first who attacked the pieces; his superior officers have a great respect for him.—I am, Sire, your Majesty's affectionate Brother,

JOACHIM NAPOLEON.

Second Report of the King of Naples to the Emperor.—Malluzero, Aug. 2.

Sire,—I received in the night between the 25th and 26th of July a dispatch from your Majesty, according to which I was to make a strong reconnoissance upon the enemy with a considerable quantity of artillery, and the division Delzons, which was to support it. I put in motion all the first corps of the reserve of the cavalry, and the two battalions of the 8th of infantry. My advanced guard met with the rear guard of the enemy at about two leagues from Ostrovno; they were advantageously posted behind an extremely deep ravine; they had infantry and cavalry, and were covered on their front and flanks by thick woods; several cannon shot were exchanged; the two battalions were sent to stop the infantry, which already made the cavalry retrograde. In the mean time the division Delzons had arrived; here the part of the cavalry was naturally to have concluded. The Viceroy made his disposition and marched upon the enemy. The ravine was passed. The brigade of foreign cavalry had passed the Dwina, protected our left flank, and debouched in the plain; the rest of the light division marched upon the causeway in proportion as the Viceroy repulsed the infantry of the enemy. The cuirassiers were left in reserve behind the ravine, and their cannon placed in battery. My right was covered by immense woods. The enemy were vigorously led to the second position, behind the ravine, where, no doubt, were their reserve. He was repulsed a second time, and a second time renewed the attack; I perceived confusion; I ordered a charge of cavalry against a column of infantry which was marching audaciously in the plain. The brave Poles rushed on the Russian battalion—not a man escaped—not one was made prisoner—the last men were killed, even in the woods. The *pas de charge* was immediately beaten, and all the square battalions of your Majesty's infantry, and General Girardin, who led the battalions of the left, received orders to

make a change to the right and incline on the *grand chaussée* on the rear of the enemy. All the battalions who were immediately on the right executed the same manœuvres; and General Peré inclined with the 8th regiment of hussars to the right, and vigorously charged the whole left of the enemy, which owed its safety only to the woods and ravines that retarded our march. The whole division followed the movement on the causeway; the cavalry debouched on the heights in front of the five or six regiments of cavalry which I had caused to be cannonaded; it was in this position that your dispatch found me, and whence it caused me to pursue the enemy, who was led with drums beating to a ravine about a league and a half from Witepsk.—Here is, Sire, an account of the affair of the 26th, in which, according to the reports of all the prisoners and deserters, the enemy suffered still greater losses than on the preceding evening. One may boldly state their loss at from 2,500 to 3,000 killed, and an immense number wounded. Your Majesty scarcely lost any body.—[Here follows the praises of the different officers who distinguished themselves.]

JOACHIM NAPOLEON.

Report of Marshal the Duke of Tarentum, to the Prince Major-General.—Jacobstadt, July 22.

Monseigneur,—I have this instant (five o'clock in the evening) received the report of General Grawert, respecting the engagement which took place on the 19th at Ekau.—Scarcely had he arrived at Banske, and replaced General Ricard, whilst his infantry was passing the Aa, he detached Colonel de Roeder, with a party of 60 horse, to reconnoitre the ground. He met the enemy's posts about three leagues from Banske, easily drove them back; but observing they had forces behind them, he informed General Grawert of it, and at the same time demanded two squadrons and half a battery of horse artillery; but, previous to their arrival, the enemy, who from a height had been able to convince himself of the weakness of Col. Roeder's detachment, fell upon him; he valiantly defended himself, in order not to lose the advantageous position he occupied.—This unequal combat became more critical and lively, when Major Sturn, with the 1st regiment of dragoons, arrived; this brave officer vigorously charged the enemy's cavalry, overthrew and pursued it to the

wood, where it was checked by the enemy's infantry. In this charge the enemy had many men killed, and an officer and 20 men taken prisoners. The Prussians had one man killed and 20 wounded, three of whom were officers; among whom is Count Brandenburg. The prisoners taken in this affair unanimously declare, that the preceding evening considerable reinforcements had arrived at Ekau, upon which the enemy advanced four battalions, some squadrons of Uhlans, a paulk of Cossacks, and some cannon, and besides concentrated themselves with very superior forces, with a battery of 10 pieces of cannon in Ekau.

—General Grawert, being informed of this, determined upon sending orders to General Kleist, that, by a first disposition, I had sent to Kunken and Draken, upon the high road from Herbergen to Riga, to march by the right of the river Ekau, to take the enemy in flank and rear, whilst he made dispositions for attacking him in front.—General Grawert marched upon Ekau, drove all the enemy's troops from the right to the left bank of the river Ekau, with his cavalry and tirailleurs, and, in an advantageous position, waited the arrival of General Kleist; of whose arrival, as soon as he was informed by the first discharge of cannon, he approached the enemy, passed the defile with the cavalry, the artillery, and the tirailleurs, and supported that attack by a part of his infantry, whilst the other advanced to guard the defile.—General Kleist vigorously attacked on his side, his left bearing upon Ekau. The combat was long and murderous; the Russians defended their positions foot to foot; even a detachment which was cut off fought to the last extremity.—Nevertheless, the bravery of the Prussian troops, notwithstanding their inferiority of numbers, and the good conduct of the chiefs and officers, triumphed over the Russians. At eight in the evening they were forced at all points, and put to flight.—The result of this day is a flag taken, and several hundreds of prisoners. The enemy lost a considerable number of men in killed and wounded. The loss of the Prussians is of consideration.

—[Here follow the names of those officers who distinguished themselves.]—General Grawert supposes the enemy will take a position between Ekau and Riga, from whence he reckons upon driving them with facility, as the Russians are discouraged by the action of the 19th, whilst the Prussians are full of confidence.—Gen. Grawert adds, that the 19th has been a

glorious day for the Emperor and the Prussian arms.

THE MARSHAL DUKE OF TARENTUM.

*Thirteenth Bulletin of the Grand Army.—
Smolensko, Aug. 21.*

It appears that in the battle of Mohilow gained over Prince Bagration on the 23d July, the loss of the enemy has been considerable; we here give the Report of the Prince of Eckmuhl respecting this affair.

—The Duke of Tarente found 20 pieces of cannon in Dunabourg, in place of 8, as had been announced; he obliged several ships laden with more than 40,000 bombs, and other projectiles to retire—an immense quantity of ammunition was destroyed by the enemy. The ignorance of the Russians in constructing fortifications is apparent in the works of Dunabourg and Drissa; His Majesty gave the command of his right to the Prince of Schwartzenburg, by placing under his orders the 2d corps. This Prince marched against General Tormasow; met and defeated him on the 12th; he pays the highest compliments to the Saxon and Austrian troops: the Prince Schwartzenburg shewed in these circumstances equal activity. The Emperor has requested promotion and rewards for the Officers of his Corps d'armee who have distinguished themselves.—On the 8th, the Grand Army was placed in the following manner. The Prince Vice Roi was at Souria with the 4th corps, his advanced guards occupying Vilys, Ousveath and Potulsop.—The King of Naples was at Mkoulmo, his cavalry occupied Lukovo.

—Marshal the Duke of Echingen, Commandant of the 3d corps, was at Loozna.

—Marshal the Prince of Echmuhl, Commandant of the 1st corps, was at Doubrouva. The 5th corps, commanded by the Prince Poniatowski, was at Mohilow.

—The head-quarters were at Witepsk.

—The 2d corps, commanded by the Duke of Reggio, was upon the Drissa.—

The 10th corps, commanded by the Duke of Tarente, was upon Dunabourg and Riga.

—On the 8th 12,000 of the enemy's cavalry marched upon Inkovo, and attacked General Count Sebastiani's division, which for half a league was obliged to fight retreating all the day, suffering and causing equal loss to the enemy. A company of voltigeurs of the 24th Regiment of light infantry, forming a part of a battalion of that regiment which had been confided to the cavalry to maintain a position in the

wood, was taken. We had about 200 killed and wounded; the enemy may have lost the same number of men. On the 12th the enemy's army, having united at Smolensko, marched by different points with equal slowness and hesitation upon Boreitch and Nadra.—The Prince of Eckmuhl collected all his troops in order to march against the enemy and take possession of Smolensko, by proceeding thither by the other side of the Borysthene. The King of Naples and Duke of Elchingen set out from Liozna and marched upon the Borysthene, near to the embouchier of Berzina, opposite Khomeno, where on the night between the 13th and 14th they threw two bridges over the Borysthene.

—The Viceroy set out from Soniaj, and marched by Janovitshi and Lienvavitsch to Rasasna, where he arrived on the 14th.—General Count Crouchy collected the 3d corps of cavalry at Rasasna, on the 12th.—The Prince of Eckmuhl collected all his corps at Doubrowna, on the 13th.—General Count Eble threw three bridges over Rasasna, on the 13th.—

The head-quarters set out on the 13th from Witepsk, and arrived at Rasasna on the 13th.—Prince Poniatowski set out from Mohilow, and on the 13th arrived at Romanzo. On the 14th, at break of day, General Grouchy marched upon Leaobri, chased two regiments of Cossacks from it, and there found the corps of General Count Nansouty. The same day the King of Naples, supported by the Duke of Elchingen, arrived at Krasnoi.—The 27th enemy's division, consisting of 5,000 infantry, supported by 2,000 cavalry and 12 pieces of cannon, was in a position before that town: it was attacked and forced in an instant by the Duke of Elchingen. The 24th regiment of light infantry attacked the small town of Krasnoi with the bayonet, with great intrepidity: the cavalry executed some admirable charges. Baron Bordesoult, General of Division, and the 3d regiment of chasseurs, distinguished themselves. The taking of eight pieces of cannon, 14 caissons, 1,500 prisoners, with a field covered with more than 1,000 Russian corpses, were the advantages of the battle of Krasnoi, in which the Russian division, consisting of 5,000 men, suffered a loss of half its number.—His Majesty, on the 15th, had his head quarters at Kovonitnia.—On the 16th, in the morning, the heights of Smolensko were commanded. The town presented to our view an enclosure of walls of 4,000 toises, ten feet

thick and 25 high, intersected with towers, several of which were armed with cannon of a heavy caliber.—Upon the right of the Borysthene, we perceived and knew that the enemy faced about, and hastily retraced their steps to defend Smolensko. We knew that the enemy's Generals had received reiterated orders to give battle and save Smolensko. The Emperor reconnoitred the town, and placed his army in its position on the day of the 16th. The Marshal Duke of Elchingen had the left, bearing on the Borysthene; the Prince of Eckmuhl, the centre; Prince Poniatowski, the right; the guard was placed in reserve in the centre; the Viceroy, in reserve on the right, and the cavalry, under the orders of the King of Naples, at the extremity of the right; the Duke of Abrantes, with the 8th corps, lost their way and had made a false movement. The 16th and half of the 17th was passed in observation. A fire of musquetry was kept up along the line. The enemy occupied Smolensko with 30,000 men, and the remainder of their army was formed upon the fine positions upon the right bank of that river opposite to the town, and communicating by three bridges. Smolensko is considered as a strong town by the Russians, and the Bulwark of Moscow. On the 17th at two in the afternoon, seeing that the enemy had not debouched; that they were fortifying themselves in Smolensko, and that they refused battle, notwithstanding the orders they had received, and the fine positions they might have taken, their right upon Smolensko, and their left upon the course of the Borysthene, the enemy's General wanting resolution, the Emperor marched upon the right, and ordered Prince Poniatowski to change his front, the right in advance, and to place his right to the Borysthene, occupying one of the suburbs by posts and batteries to destroy the bridge, and interrupt the communication of the town with the right bank. —During this time the Prince of Eckmuhl received orders to attack two of the suburbs, which the enemy had entrenched, at 200 toises distance from the town, and which were each defended by 7 or 8,000 men, and heavy cannon. General Count Friant had orders to complete the investment, in leaning his right towards Prince Poniatowski's corps, and his left to the right of the attack made by the Prince of Eckmuhl. At two in the afternoon, Count Bruyere's division of cavalry, after having driven away the Cos-

sacks' and enemy's cavalry, approached the bridge highest up the river; a battery of 10 pieces of artillery was established upon this ground, and fired with grape shot upon that part of the enemy's army which was upon the right bank of the river, and quickly obliged the Russian masses of infantry to evacuate that position.—The enemy then placed two batteries, of 20 pieces of cannon, in a convent, to annoy the battery which played upon the bridge. The prince of Eckmuhl intrusted the attack of the right suburbs to Count Morand, and that of the left to General Count Guden.—At three the cannonade commenced; at half past four a very brisk fire of musketry began, and at five the divisions of Morand and Guden carried the intrenched enemy's suburbs, with a cool and rare intrepidity, and pursued them to the covered way, which was covered with Russian dead. Upon our left the Duke of Elchingen attacked the position which the enemy had without the town, seized upon it, and pursued the enemy to the glacis. —At five o'clock the communication of the town with the right bank became difficult, and could only be accomplished by isolated men.—Three batteries of breaching, 12 pounders, were placed against the walls at six in the evening; one by Friant's division, and the two others by Morand and Guden's divisions. We drove the enemy from all the town by howitzers, which played upon them.—The General of artillery, Count Sorbier, rendered the occupation of the covered way by the enemy impossible, by two enfiladed batteries. Nevertheless the enemy, who from two in the afternoon perceived we had serious intentions against the town, sent two divisions and two regiments of infantry of the Guard, to reinforce the four divisions which were in the town. These united forces composed half of the Russian army. The battle continued the whole night; three breaching batteries played with the utmost activity. Two companies of miners were attached to the ramparts.—The town was now on fire in the middle of a fine August night. Smolensko offered the French a spectacle similar to that which an eruption of Vesuvius presents to the inhabitants of Naples.—An hour after midnight the enemy abandoned the town, and retired across the river. At two o'clock the grenadiers who first led to the attack, no longer found resistance; the place was evacuated; 200 pieces of cannon and one of the first towns in Russia were

in our power, and that, too, in sight of the whole Russian army. The combat of Smolensko, which we might justly term a battle, an hundred thousand men having been engaged on the different sides, caused the Russians a loss of 4,700 men left dead on the field of battle, of 2,000 prisoners, the greater part of which are wounded, and of 7 to 8,000 wounded. Amongst the dead were found five Russian Generals. Our loss amounts to 700 killed and 3,100 or 3,200 wounded. The General of Brigade, Grabouski, was killed, and the Generals of Brigade, Grandeau and Dalton, wounded. All the troops have rivalled each other in intrepidity. The field of battle has offered to the view of 200,000 persons, who can attest it, the sight of one French corpse laying upon the dead bodies of seven or eight Russians, meanwhile the Russians were protected by the musketry fire from their trenches during a part of the days of the 16th and 17th.—On the 18th, we established the bridges over the Borysthene which the enemy had burnt, but did not succeed in quenching the fire which consumed the town until the day of the 18th, the French sappers having worked with great activity. The houses in the city were filled with Russians, dead and dying.—Of twelve divisions which composed the Grand Russian Army, two divisions have been broken and defeated in the combats of Ostrowna; two have met with the same fate in the battle of Mohilow; and six in the battle of Smolensko. They have only two divisions of the Guards which remain entire.—The deeds of bravery which reflect honour on the army, and which have distinguished such numbers of soldiers in the battle of Smolensko, shall be the subject of a particular report. Never has the French army shewn greater intrepidity than in this campaign.

*Fourteenth Bulletin of the Grand Army.
Smolensko, Aug. 23.*

Smolensko may be considered as one of the finest cities of Russia. Had it not been for the circumstances of the war, which has carried thither the fire, and consumed immense magazines of colonial merchandise and goods of all kinds, this city would have been a grand resource for the army. Even in its present state it may be of the greatest utility in point of a military view. There are still large houses remaining, which offer fine places for the establishment of hospitals.—The province

of Smolensko is very fine and very fertile, and furnished with great resources, for subsistence and forage. The Russians intended, according to the events of the war, to raise a Militia of Peasant Slaves, whom they have armed with bad pikes. They had already united about 5,000 of them at this place; it was an object of raillery and derision even to the Russian army itself. They had already stated as the Order of the Day, that Smolensko was to be the grave of the French, and that although it had been deemed convenient to evacuate Poland, yet it was necessary to give battle at Smolensko, to prevent this barrier of Russia from falling into our hands.—The Cathedral of Smolensko is one of the most celebrated Grecian Churches in all Russia. The Episcopal Palace forms a kind of town by itself.—The heat is excessive, the thermometer having risen to 26 degrees: the weather is much hotter here than in Italy.

Battle of Polotsk.

After the Battle of Drissa, the Duke of Reggio, knowing that the enemy's General Wittgenstein had been reinforced by twelve third battalions from the garrison of Dunaburg, and willing to draw him to an engagement near the defile below Polotsk, caused the 2d and 6th corps to be arranged in order of battle below Polotsk. General Wittgenstein followed him, attacked him on the 16th and 17th, and was vigorously repulsed. The Bavarian division of De Wrede, of the 6th corps, has distinguished itself. At the moment when the Duke of Reggio was making his dispositions to profit by the victory, and to close the enemy in the defile, he was struck on the shoulder by a Biscayen. His wound, which is of a serious nature, obliged him to cause himself to be transported to Wilna, but it did not appear that he made himself in any wise unquiet concerning the consequences.—The General Gouvion Saint Cyr has taken the command of the 2d and 6th corps. On the 17th, in the evening, the enemy retired through the defile. General Verdier was wounded. General Maison has been recognized as General of Division, and has succeeded him in the command of his division. Our loss is estimated at 1,000 men killed and wounded. The loss of the Russians is triple to ours. We have taken 500 prisoners from them.—On the 18th, at four o'clock in the afternoon, General Gouvion Saint Cyr, commanding the 2d and 6th corps, opened

on the enemy, by causing his right wing to be attacked by the Bavarian Division of Count de Wrede. The battle extended the whole length of the line, and the enemy were thrown into complete rout, and pursued for two leagues, as long as day-light permitted. Twenty pieces of cannon and 1,000 prisoners have remained in the power of the French army. The Bavarian General Deroy was wounded.

Battle of Valentina.

On the 19th, at break of day, the bridge being finished, the Marshal Duke of Elchingen crossed over to the right bank of the Borysthene, and pursued the enemy. At one league from the town he encountered the last column of the enemy's rear-guard. It was a division of 5 or 6,000 men, stationed on fine heights.—He caused them to be attacked with the bayonet, by the 4th regiment of infantry of the line, and by the 72d ditto. The position was carried, and our bayonets covered the field of battle with dead: 3 or 400 prisoners fell into our hands.—The flying enemy retired on the second column, which was posted on the heights of Valentina. The first position was carried by the 10th of the line; and towards four o'clock in the afternoon, the musketry fire was kept up against the whole of the enemy's rear-guard, which presented about 15,000 men. The Duke of Abrantes had passed the Borysthene at 2 o'clock to the right of Smolensko, and he found himself close upon the rear of the enemy; he might, therefore, by marching with his division, have intercepted the great road to Moscow, and rendered the retreat of the rear-guard difficult: but mean-time, the other columns of the enemy's army which remained to be forced, being informed of the success, and of the rapidity of the first attack, returned back the way they came. Four divisions then advanced to support their rear-guard, and among others the divisions of grenadiers, which, until now, had not come forward, 5 or 6,000 men, cavalry, formed their right, whilst their left was covered by woods, filled with Tirailleurs. It was of the greatest consequence to the enemy to keep this position as long as possible, it being a very fine one, and apparently impregnable; on our part we attached no less importance to it. Thus arose the battle of Valentina, one of the finest feats of arms in our military history.—At six o'clock in the evening the division of Gudin, which

had been sent forward to support the third corps, from the moment when we perceived the great succours that the enemy had sent to his rear guard, pushed forward a column on the centre of the enemy's position, supported by the division of General Ledru. After an hour's combat our troops forced the position. General Count Gudin arriving with his division, was, at the commencement of the action, struck by a bullet, which carried off his thigh: he died gloriously. This loss was sensibly felt. General Gudin was one of the most distinguished officers in the army; he was estimable for his moral qualities, as much as for his bravery and intrepidity. General Gerard has taken the command of the division. We reckon that the enemy have had eight Generals killed or wounded: one of their Generals is taken prisoner. On the following day the Emperor distributed recompenses on the field of battle to all the regiments which had distinguished themselves, and as the 127th, which is a new regiment, had behaved itself well, His Majesty granted this regiment the right of carrying an eagle, a privilege it had not before enjoyed, never having until this time been present in any battle. These recompenses, given on the field of battle in the midst of the dead, the dying, the wounded, and the trophies of victory, afforded a spectacle truly military and imposing. The enemy, after this battle, has precipitated his retreat in such a manner that on the day of the 20th our troops marched 20 leagues without being able to find the Cossacks, and every where picking up the wounded and the stragglers.—Our loss in the battle of Valentina has been 600 killed and 2,600 wounded. That of the enemy, as the field of battle shews, is triple. We have taken 1,000 prisoners, mostly wounded.—Thus the only two Russian divisions which had not suffered by the preceding combats of Mohilow, of Ostrovno, of Krasnoi, and of Smolensko, have now done it by the battle of Valentina. All the intelligence received, confirms the account of the enemy running full drive for Moscow, and that his army has suffered much in the preceding engagements, and besides this experiences a great desertion. The Poles say to them when deserting, you have abandoned us without fighting, what right then can you have to expect from us to remain under your colours? The Russian soldiers of the provinces of Mohilow and Smolensko likewise take advantage of the proximity of

their villages to desert, and return to repose themselves in their own countries. The division of Gudin attacked with so much intrepidity, that the enemy were persuaded it was the Imperial Guards. This is in one word to pronounce the finest eulogy on the 7th regiment of light infantry, and on the 12th, 21st, and 127th of the line who composed this division. The combat of Valentina may likewise be called a battle, as more than 80,000 men were engaged. It was at least an affair of the van-guard of the first rank.—General Grouchy, who was sent with his corps on the route to Donkovichina, found all the villages filled with dead and wounded, and has taken three carriages, containing 900 wounded.—The Cossacks have surprised at Leozno an hospital of 200 sick Wirtemburgh troops, which, through negligence, had not been forwarded to Witepsk.—For the rest, in the midst of all these disasters, the Russians never cease to chaunt *Te Deums*; they convert every thing into a victory; but in spite of the ignorance and brutality of these people, this begins to appear ridiculous to them, and even too gross.

Report to the Major General.

Monseigneur,—I suppose that the Duke of Reggio will have rendered your Highness an account of the day of the 17th, or at least up to the moment when his wounds forced him to quit the field of battle; during the remainder of that day the troops continued their successes, and at nine in the evening the Russians were repulsed at every point, after having suffered the most considerable losses, having attempted, in the course of the day, six or seven attacks, which were repulsed with a bravery superior to the infatuation which brought them thither. This affair reflects the highest honour on the division of Le Grand, which was placed at the branching of the roads to Jebei and to Nevil; and on the Bavarian corps, placed on the left bank of the Polota, in the rear of the village of Spas, which the enemy was determined to retake, notwithstanding his having been driven out of it five or six times; and the 20th division, as also General De Wrede, who commanded it, have covered themselves with glory. The Bavarian General Vincenti, who is entitled to praise for the manner in which he conducted himself, was there wounded.—In the evening of that day, I felt the necessity of attacking the enemy. I took my measures for making the attack on the 18th,

at four o'clock in the afternoon. I have performed impossibilities to deceive the enemy concerning my intentions. Towards one o'clock I caused the equipage of the army, which were in the rear of Polotsk, to file off on the left bank of the Dwina, on the road to Oula. I made an appearance as if I would cause this movement to be covered and protected by the troops which Marshal the Duke of Reggio had caused to repass to the left bank. In the night between the 16th and 17th, they re-united behind Polotsk, at the rear of the equipages, the division of cuirassiers arrived there from Semeneta, and the brigade of light cavalry of General Castex, from Roudina.—At three in the afternoon the column and baggage had filed in sight of the enemy, and the troops above-mentioned repassed the Dwina with the greatest part of the French artillery, and entered Polotsk. About five o'clock all the troops and artillery were in a position to debouche upon the enemy without their even having observed our preparations. At five precisely all the artillery opened its fire, and our columns of infantry debouched under its protection to attack the enemy's left and centre. Wrede's division debouched to the right of the village of Spas, and attacked with great bravery and skill the enemy's left; General Deroy's division debouched by the same village of Spas; Le Grand's division on the left of that village, connecting itself by its left to Verdier's division, a brigade of which observed the enemy's right, which was placed upon the road of Gehinzeleva. Merle's division covered the front of Polotsk, and part of its rear.—The enemy, though completely surprised, quite confident in their superior force and immense artillery, composed of 180 pieces, at first received our attack with infinite calmness and *sang froid*; but in the end, before night, their left was completely forced, and their centre totally routed, after having defended their position with much bravery and great slaughter. We should have made a very great number of prisoners, if the woods had not been so near their position. The enemy abandoned to us the field of battle, covered with an immense number of their killed, 20 pieces of cannon and 1,000 prisoners. On our side we have had some killed and wounded—among the latter are Generals Deroy and Raclovitsch, and Colonel Colonge, commanding the Bavarian artillery.—I cannot sufficiently eulogize Legrand, Wrede, Deroy, Raclo-

(*To be continued.*)

ENGLISH LIBERTY OF THE PRESS,

As illustrated in the Prosecution and Punishment of

WILLIAM COBBETT.

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IN order that my countrymen and that the world may not be deceived, duped, and cheated upon this subject, I, WILLIAM COBBETT, of Botley, in Hampshire, put upon record the following facts; to wit: That, on the 24th June, 1809, the following article was published in a London news-paper, called the **COURIER**:—"The Mutiny amongst the **LOCAL MILITIA**, which broke out at Ely, was *"fortunately suppressed on Wednesday by the arrival of four squadrons of the GERMAN LEGION CAVALRY from Bury, under the command of General Auckland. Five of the ringleaders were tried by a Court-Martial, and sentenced to receive 500 lashes each, part of which punishment they received on Wednesday, and a part was remitted. A stoppage for their knapsacks was the ground of the complaint that excited this mutinous spirit, which occasioned the men to surround their officers, and demand what they deemed their arrears. The first division of the German Legion halted yesterday at Newmarket on their return to Bury."*—That, on the 1st July, 1809, I published, in the **Political Register**, an article censuring, in the strongest terms, these proceedings; that, for so doing, the Attorney General prosecuted, as seditious libellers, and by Ex-Officio Information, me, and also my printer, my publisher, and one of the principal retailers of the **Political Register**; that I was brought to trial on the 15th June 1810, and was, by a Special Jury, that is to say, by 12 men out of 48 appointed by the Master of the Crown Office, found guilty; that, on the 20th of the same month, I was compelled to give bail for my appearance to receive judgment; and that, as I came up from Botley (to which place I had returned to my family and my farm on the evening of the 15th), a Tipstaff went down from London in order to seize me, personally; that, on the 9th of July, 1810, I, together with my printer, publisher, and the newsman, were brought into the Court of King's Bench to receive judgment; that the three former were sentenced to be imprisoned for some months in the King's Bench prison; that I was sentenced to be imprisoned for two years in Newgate, the great receptacle for malefactors, and the front of which is the scene of numerous hangings in the course of every year; that the part of the prison in which I was sentenced to be confined is sometimes inhabited by felons, that felons were actually in it at the time I entered it; that one man was taken out of it to be transported in about 48 hours after I was put into the same yard with him; and that it is the place of confinement for men guilty of unnatural crimes, of whom there are four in it at this time; that, besides this imprisonment, I was sentenced to pay a thousand pounds **TO THE KING**, and to give security for my good behaviour for seven years, myself in the sum of 3,000 pounds, and

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two sureties in the sum of 1,000 pounds each; that the whole of this sentence has been executed upon me, that I have been imprisoned the two years, have paid the thousand pounds **TO THE KING**, and have given the bail, Timothy Brown and Peter Walker, Esqrs. being my sureties; that the Attorney General was Sir Vicary Gibbs, the Judge who sat at the trial Lord Ellenborough, the four Judges who sat at passing sentence Ellenborough, Grose, Le Blanc, and Bailey; and that the jurors were, Thomas Rhodes of Hampstead Road, John Davis of Southampton Place, James Ellis of Tottenham Court Road, John Richards of Bayswater, Thomas Marsham of Baker Street, Robert Heathcote of High Street Marylebone, John Maud of York Place Marylebone, George Bagster of Church Terrace Pancras, Thomas Taylor of Red Lion Square, David Deane of St. John Street, William Palmer of Upper Street Islington, Henry Favre of Pall Mall; that the Prime Ministers during the time were Spencer Perceval, until he was shot by John Bellingham, and after that Robert B. Jenkinson, Earl of Liverpool; that the prosecution and sentence took place in the reign of King George the Third, and that, he having become insane during my imprisonment, the 1,000 pounds was paid to his son, the Prince Regent, in his behalf; that, during my imprisonment, I wrote and published 364 Essays and Letters upon political subjects; that, during the same time, I was visited by persons from 197 cities and towns, many of them as a sort of deputies from Societies or Clubs; that, at the expiration of my imprisonment, on the 9th of July, 1812, a great dinner was given in London for the purpose of receiving me, at which dinner upwards of 600 persons were present, and at which Sir Francis Burdett presided; that dinners and other parties were held on the same occasion in many other places in England; that, on my way home, I was received at Alton, the first town in Hampshire, with the ringing of the Church bells; that a respectable company met me and gave me a dinner at Winchester; that I was drawn from more than the distance of a mile into Botley by the people; that, upon my arrival in the village, I found all the people assembled to receive me; that I concluded the day by explaining to them the cause of my imprisonment, and by giving them clear notions respecting the flogging of the Local Militia-men at Ely, and respecting the employment of German Troops; and, finally, which is more than a compensation for my losses and all my sufferings, I am in perfect health and strength, and, though I must, for the sake of six children, feel the diminution that has been made in my property (thinking it right in me to decline the offer of a subscription), I have the consolation to see growing up three sons, upon whose hearts, I trust, all these facts will be engraven.

WM. COBBETT.

Botley, July 23, 1812.

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